

THE

GOBRECHT

JOURNAL



**For Collectors
of the**

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VOLUME ELEVEN ISSUE #31**

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SOME THOUGHTS ON LIBERTY SEATED HALVES: PART II “WITH-MOTTO” DATES 1866 - 1891

by

Donald Vettel

Much has transpired since the publication of Part I of “Some Thoughts on Seated Halves” last fall. First, it is important to note some of the dialogue over the first article which has appeared in my mail box. Much has centered around some key omissions and needed clarifications among the issues in the 1850’s. The 1850-O, 1851-O and 1852-O were unmentioned and are certainly not common. My correspondence suggests that the current high **Trends** prices are justified or nearly so. The other point made during last year’s LSCC meeting at the San Diego ANA is that choice uncirculated 1851 and 1852 Philadelphia issues are very rare if not impossible. Part of my problem is that I’ve never been particularly oriented to MS-63+ and MS-65 Liberty Seated material. Very little of it exists and, thus, assembling a collection in such condition is only a pipedream. In arguing that pieces dated 1851 and 1852 were overrated, I was referring to MS-60 specimens only.

A second interesting phenomenon concerns the price of Seated halves and Seated coinage in general. Those who trade heavily in this material know prices have weakened considerably. In trying to ascertain why, I can only conclude that dealers who were making the market in Seated coinage decided not to support the established 1983 levels. Collectors, of course, should rejoice as this gives us all a second opportunity to pursue our secret Seated fantasies at prices that will someday seem ridiculously low. A problem does arise for the collector, however, when lower prices prevail. There is always the tendency for dealers to withhold choice material for a better price. You must be a very astute and critical buyer, therefore, when looking at Seated coinage in the current market. Particularly tough are nice XF and AU specimens at present **Trends** prices. To be sure XF and AU coins are out there but fully 90% of those I’ve observed at recent shows have had problems. Problem coins should *a/ways* be avoided. They have neither aesthetic or commercial viability.

So much for preliminaries. Let’s get on to the format for the following article. Again I will offer pricing information in relation to **Trends** as of July, 1984. I still think the Coin World staff is doing a terrific job and would particularly like to compliment Keith Zaner who, I understand, has been making the rounds at shows and has been getting first hand information on even the most esoteric items. I hate to be blunt but **Red Book** and **Coin Market** are outdated when it comes to Seated material. Generally, the **Red Book** is 50% below market and **Coin Market** has remained substantially unrevised for several years.

This time around, I would like to discuss strike and surface characteristics as I deal with the individual dates. Several who wrote correctly noted that placing such information in two different places was inconvenient and cumbersome.

It can be fairly said that the “with-motto” Seated halves contain a greater number of better dates and not a few coins with a certain amount of interesting folklore attached. This statement is borne out immediately by the

San Francisco issues of the 1860s and early 1870s. Despite fairly high mint-ages, all are scarce and decidedly underrated. The 1869-S appears to be the scarcest coin in this run followed by the 1872-S, 1870-S and 1868-S respectively. All are worth 50% to 100% over current **Trends**. The 1866-S, 1867-S and 1871-S are better dates but can usually be found at no more than 20% over **Trends**. Strike for these dates is excellent with the exception of 1869-S and 1870-S which often have poorly struck centers and weak stars on the obverse.

The Philadelphia issues in the late 1860s and early 1870s have often been promoted and appear slightly overrated. There is a sleeper here, however, and it is the 1870 issue. Almost all collectors surveyed noted that this is a tough coin worth 50% over **Trends**. The strike for these issues is uniformly excellent.

Folklore enters the picture when our attention turns to the 1870-CC issue. A well-circulated rumor tells of a Louisiana man who has avidly hoarded this date over many years. The tale is so well known that many a dealer is skittish about paying what this coin may well be worth in higher circulated grades. My feelings are that this is a very rare date in grades between Good and AU. Auction records indicate only 18 verifiable sales of *different* specimens in the last seven years in grades between F and AU. Oddly, there are a fair number of uncirculated coins around. Fines must be worth \$1,000 with XFs commanding at least five times that much. Strike is also a consideration. The few pieces I've seen are very weakly struck on the obverse. This comment is more or less true for all the "CC" issues with the 1876-CC and 1877-CC probably having the best strike. However, the value of the uncirculated 1870-CC coins must be placed in the \$10,000 and up category as there are just too few circulated coins to go around. In summary, 1870-CC is a monster coin above VG. AG's plus Goods are scarce but obtainable at current levels. The 1871-CC and 1872-CC are somewhat overrated and can be bought easily at 25% below **Trends**.

One of the scarcest and most unappreciated "no-motto" Seated halves is the 1853-O. I also feel strongly that the 1873-S and 1874-S have been "undiscovered" because of their apparent type coin status. The 1873-S is perhaps a bit tougher in lower grades but the 1874-S seems nearly impossible in full XF or AU. Both coins come well struck and warrant a price double current **Trends** across the board.

Two other issues which have been overlooked are the 1873 and 1873-CC "No arrows" issues. Both coins warrant a premium of 25% over **Trends**; even more if well struck. Conversely, the 1873, 1873-CC and 1874 with arrows are vastly overrated and are available in all grades. The jury is out on the 1874-CC. Diverse opinions lead me to believe that it is priced properly at current levels. In higher grades (XF), the issue is very scarce, if not rare, and worth around \$1,000. The 1873 and 1874 with arrows issues are well struck for the Philadelphia mint and poorly struck for the Carson City mint.

The 1875 through 1877 issues afford the type collector with his best opportunity to pick up nicely struck specimens of all three mints at common date prices. The exception here is the lightly regarded and undervalued 1875-CC. It is infrequently auctioned and all those surveyed regarded the coin as "scarce" and difficult to locate fully struck. It is definitely tougher

than the 1876-CC, especially in better grades.

Followers of this article should take note, however, that the 1875 to 1877 Seated halves are the only really common “with-motto” type coins. Thus, as a type, the “with -motto” coins must be regarded as *much* tougher than the “no-motto” coins. This argument was also made for the “with-motto” Seated dollars discussed in my article in Issue #24. Current price listings showing the “No-Motto” coin as tougher are simply reflecting the conventional wisdom that “older is rarer” and clearly show no effort to analyze the relative availability of “no-motto” versus “with -motto” Seated halves.

The date 1878 provides a wide divergence in scarcity for the three mints. Initially, we note the Philadelphia issue poses no problems and the Carson City issue is correctly regarded as a scarce to rare coin warranting current **Trend** prices.

I do wish to note, however, that the 1878-CC is much easier to locate in better grades than the 1870-CC. Then comes the king of the Seated halves and one of the most interesting numismatic rarities, the 1878-S. Its small mintage of 12,000 suggests a rare coin but this piece is nearly impossible above AG. As with the 1870-CC, more mint state examples exist than do coins grading VG through AU. Only eight to ten auction appearances can be verified for this date in higher circulated grades during recent years. We can only speculate as to what Good to Uncirculated 1878-S halves are really worth. The mystery, of course, is why so few pieces have survived. It is fair to estimate that only fifty pieces exist above AG. Probably a large number were melted as this is the last San Francisco half and it was this year that the mint embarked on its heavy mintage of Silver Dollars. All 1878 issues show some weakness of strike especially on the eagle’s talons.

The 1879 through 1890 dates with their tiny mintages loom as a formidable task for a collector seeking nice lower and middle grade circulated pieces. AU, Uncirculated and Proof grades, however, do not present a challenge and **Trends** values are about 25% too high. Contributors to this article rate the 1886 as the toughest date closely followed by the 1885 and 1884. Probably, the 1879 and 1890 dates are the most available. If paying **Trends** for G to XF pieces, insist on original, defect-free coins. Striking characteristics vary but the head and obverse stars sometimes are weak and the eagle’s left leg and talons are not always bold. The well-struck 1891 is gradually being recognized as a very tough coin in better grades. XF through uncirculated examples are underrated by 25% to 50%.

A summary overview of the Seated half dollar series suggests several conclusions. First, the “with-motto” coins are generally tougher than the “no-motto” variety. Perhaps the most underrated pieces are among the mint marked “with arrows” coins, principally the 1873-S and 1874-S. “S” and “CC” mints generally are very tough while several Philadelphia issues minted in the 1860s and 1880s seem overrated, especially in higher grades. The 1855-S, 1870-CC and 1878-S are clearly the keys of this series. When nice specimens appear, they will command higher prices.

Overall, the series with its longevity and many varieties provides a challenging and fascinating undertaking. It has been a pleasure studying and writing about Seated halves. Now let’s see if we can locate a few before the small supply of premium pieces dries up!

1869 SEATED DOLLARS

by

David H. Cohen

Anyone who has actively studied die varieties for Seated coins will eventually be led to the conclusion that the entire design for Seated coins was hubbed into the dies by 1840. For Seated dollars in particular this means that the only way to tell one die from another is by the location of the date on the obverse and the location of the mintmark on the reverse. A few exceptions such as the quad-stripe variety of 1844 and the chin whiskers variety of 1853 have been reported in the journal. Other varieties can be identified by the presence of die cracks, polish marks, die pits or other damage to the surface of the dies. But very few varieties can be identified by the presence of die marks or cracks. The only way to identify most varieties is by recording the location of the date and mintmark in relation to the rest of the fixed design and denticles.

Because of the limited number of Seated dollars minted, there are very few varieties in this series. However, I have found that most die varieties can be identified from two points in the design in relation to the number "1". The distance in millimeters of the number "1" can be measured from the base of the rock to the top of the upright of the "1". The edge of the left serif of the "1" can also be related to the denticle below. A line can be drawn along the edge of the left serif of the "1" to the point where it intersects the denticle below. The line must be drawn perpendicular to the base of the rock. This line will strike the denticle area, either between denticles, at the upper edge of a denticle, near the center of a denticle or at the lower edge of a denticle. I have found that these two features are sufficient to identify die varieties of a particular date. I suspect that there will be exceptions but I believe that they will be few and far between.

By 1869, the Civil War had been over for several years and the demand for silver dollars was increasing. Mintage records indicate that 424,300 pieces were struck in 1869, the largest number of Seated dollars struck up to that date except for the 1860-O date. I have identified five varieties for the 1869 dollar with the assistance of other people. Characteristics of the varieties are given below.

Variety 1

Recut 1 and 8 in date. I believe this to be the same variety as described by Kenneth Hill in Issue #27 of the journal. Top of the upright of the "1" is 1.0mm below the base of the rock. The date slopes slightly downward. The left edge of the serif of the "1" over the lower edge of a denticle. The tip of the shield is over the left side of the upright of the "1". The gap between the numbers 8 and 6 is centered over the space between two denticles. The gap between the numbers 6 and 9 is centered over the space between two denticles.

Variety 1



Variety 2

There are no distinguishing marks on this variety that I can find. Top of the upright of the "1" is 1.0mm below the base of the rock. The left edge of the serif of the "1" over the lower edge of a denticle. The tip of the shield is over the upper left serif of the "1". The gap between the numbers 8 and 6 is centered over the space between two denticles. The gap between the numbers 6 and 9 is centered over the space between two denticles.



Variety 3

This variety has some marks below the upright of the "1" next to the denticles. I would like to call them footprint marks of the "1". Top of the upright of the "1" is 1.0mm below the base of the rock. The left edge of the serif of the "1" over the center of a denticle. The tip of the shield is over the left edge of the upright of the "1". The gap between the numbers 8 and 6 is centered over a denticle. The gap between the numbers 6 and 9 is centered over a denticle.



Variety 4

This is a Proof specimen that is located at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. I was able to photograph this piece through the kind cooperation of Elvira Clain-Stefanelli. Top of the upright of the "1" is just under 1.0mm below the base of the rock. The left edge of the serif of the "1" over the space between two denticles. The tip of the shield is over the upper left serif of the "1". The gap between the numbers 8 and 6 is centered over the space between two denticles. The gap between the numbers 6 and 9 is centered over the space between two denticles.

Variety 4



Variety 5

This is the J.P. Morgan coin which is located at the American Numismatic Society in New York City. I would like to thank Richard Doty at ANS for his cooperation in allowing me to photograph the Society's collection. This is a "No questions asked" proof. Mr. Doty explained to me that many, many years before, while the coin was being displayed under hot lights on a black tray, the temperature got too hot leaving the black residue on the coin. Top of the upright of the "1" is just over 1.0mm below the base of the rock. The date slopes slightly upward. The left edge of the serif of the "1" over the upper edge of a denticle. The tip of the shield is over the left side of the upright of the "1". The gap between the numbers 8 and 6 is centered over a denticle. The gap between the numbers 6 and 9 is centered over a denticle.



FIFTH REVERSE FOR 1870-CC DOLLAR DISCOVERED

by
Joseph T. Jaffe

Recently upon examining my new purchases I discovered a slightly unusual mintmark on an 1870-CC dollar that did not match the four reverses described for this date by John Kroon in Issue #23 of the journal. My first reaction was panic that someone might have added a mintmark to the specimen that I had purchased. However, upon closer examination I determined the coin to be genuine. To be on the safe side I showed the coin to a few Seated experts, two major Eastern Seated dealers. They both confirmed that the coin was indeed genuine but didn't get too excited about the new mintmark position that the coin possessed.

I am a small dealer specializing in Liberty Seated material and I did get excited about the discovery of a new reverse for the 1870-CC dollar. I consulted my library of Gobrecht journals and compared my piece with the pictures of the other four reverses illustrated in Issue #23. The mintmark position is not really a radical departure from the other four positions. For the new Reverse 5 the serif of the left C is positioned to the left of the feather tip. The right edge of the left C would just miss touching the imaginary line that connects the feather tip with the right edge of the E in ONE. The two



C's are widely spaced with the right C about 80% left of the crotch between the feather and the stem. None of the other four reverses match this mint-mark positioning.

One other interesting feature of Reverse 5 is the die scratches that run through the reverse shield. These scratches appear as curious raised lines that run at a diagonal under the vertical stripes in the shield.

The following listing is of coins which are distinctive in their overall quality. These feature attractive, original surfaces and have not been cleaned. Each coin is guaranteed to please.

HALF DIME

1859 AU-55 Nice\$110.00

DIMES

1873 No Arr AU-55 Toned 80.00
1873 Arrows VF-30 70.00
1875-CC AB EF-45 Lustre 35.00

TWENTY CENTS

1875-CC VF-30 Nice 195.00

QUARTERS

1854 EF-45 Sharp 115.00
1859 EF-40 52.00
1888-S VF-30 Choice 45.00

HALF DOLLARS

1843 AU-55 Gorgeous\$185.00
1851-O AU-55 P/L reverse 240.00
1858-O AU-55 180.00
1865 Over 1865 AU-55 240.00
1872 EF-45 Ex '84 ANA 65.00
1872 AU-50 130.00
1873-CC No Arr VF-20 Nice 210.00
1874 Sm Arr VF-30 Scarce ... 140.00
1876-CC EF-40 Medium CC 75.00
1877-S EF-45 Micro S Type 1 ... 70.00
1890 EF-40 Ex '84 ANA 360.00

DOLLARS

1870 VF-20 Ex '84 ANA 210.00
1876-S Trade EF-45 Nice coin .. 165.00

All coins may be returned within 14 days of invoice for a full refund. Payment must accompany order. Personal checks must clear. Please include \$2.00 postage and insurance on orders under \$100.00.

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ON THE COVER

The cover picture for this year shows an uncirculated example of the 1847/6 half dollar which was brought to last summer's Annual Meeting of LSCC by Larry Briggs. The picture was taken at the ANA Convention in Detroit and sent along for presentation on the cover of the Journal. The coin has been sold by Larry to an Ohio collector who specializes in half dollars.

CLASSICAL AMERICAN COINS

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HALF DIMES

1840	ND VF-30 Light toning and problem free; some luster	\$ 35
1849	AU-50 Choice blue and gold toning; repunched date	115
1857-O	XF-40 Strong strike and totally original	45
1860-O	VF-20 Problem free for the grade	22
1873	AU-55 Attractively toned over original surfaces	80

DIMES

1837	XF-45 A choice type coin with very attractive surfaces	350
1838	AU-50 Lg stars; Totally original with both luster and eye appeal	125
1842-O	XF-40 An original XF with light toning	78
1844	AU-50 A coin with a strong strike, great luster, and eye appeal	425
1847	XF-40 Beautiful old time toning in shades of violet and gold	120
1851-O	AU-50 Lustrous and choice for the grade	235
1853	XF-40 No arrows. A perfect coin for the grade with some luster	180
1859-O	XF-40 Eye appealing toning over original surfaces	68
1866-S	VF-30 Very, very close to XF. Problem free natural surfaces	80
1867-S	XF-40 Problem free for the grade	148
1872-S	XF-45 Superb surfaces and strike, totally original	210
1876	AU-55 Beautifully toned in gold and blue over problem free surfaces	70
1890	XF-45 Sharply struck with some luster	30
1890	AU-50 A perfect type coin with good luster and eye appeal	52

QUARTERS

1843-O	F-12 Small O. No problems, just honest wear	43
1855	VF-30 Very close to a full XF; retains some luster	38
1860-O	XF-40 An attractive lustrous coin	90
1875-CC	VF-20 Problem free for the grade	195
1876-S	AU-55 An eye appealing borderline Unc with superb cartwheel luster..	150

HALVES

1843-O	XF-40 Sharply struck with natural surfaces	65
1858-S	AU-50 A totally original coin with strong cartwheel luster	240
1861-S	AU-50 Needle sharp strike with attractively toned surfaces	130
1868-S	XF-45 Lustrous with choice surfaces and toning	90
1870-S	VF-30 Problem free and attractive for the grade	55
1885	XF-45 Choicest possible XF-AU. Original and eye appealing	470

All coins are graded by a strict adherence to ANA standards, and come with a two week return privilege. Some help with postage on orders under \$50 is appreciated. In order to sell I must buy and am seriously interested in purchasing all XF and AU (both the common and the scarce) seated material that is problem free for the grade. Premiums will be paid for those pieces that possess original surfaces and attractive toning.

Bob

LSCC #440

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RARITY PLATEAUS ON LIBERTY SEATED QUARTERS REVISED

**by
Larry W. Briggs**

It has been more than eight years since Mel Hatfield's article "A Rarity Scale on Liberty Seated Quarters" was published in Issue #6 of the Journal. I felt it was time to revise this rarity scale based upon my experience with the series.

For the past twenty five years I have had a profound interest in the Liberty Seated quarter series. It seems odd that a series with so many scarce and rare dates can go unnoticed or overlooked by so many collectors. In today's market many coins that aren't really rare are sold for far more than many of the rare low mintage Seated quarters. For the last few years I have been studying the quarter series as closely as one can without the availability of any written reference text. Since no reference is available I have decided to take my knowledge of the quarters and put it into words. For the last two years I have been working on a reference text for the Liberty Seated quarter series. From time to time I hope to share some excerpts of this work with LSCC members.

In July 1976 Mel Hatfield presented his listing of the rarest dates in the series. I would now like to revise this listing according to what I feel are more accurate plateaus of rarity. Before going any further however, I would like to answer some questions before they arise. My plateaus will include only collectables of the series. I consider three issues to be non-collectable. These three issues are the 1842 Small Date Philadelphia quarter (proof only) of which approximately seven pieces are known, the 1866 transitional quarter of which only one was struck, and the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter of which there are approximately three known. I also do not include any varieties such as large or small mintmarks, date or mintmark position, or die states. Also proof examples of any of the dates listed are excluded. At this point I would like to clarify a longstanding misconception. The 1873 Closed 3 No Arrows was listed at one time as having a mintage of only 1000 pieces. To my knowledge this statement has never been properly corrected in the Journal. The mintage for the 1873 Closed 3 No Arrows quarter should be listed as 40,600.

My plateau ratings resulting from my findings and studies over the past twenty five years are as follows:

Plateau 1: 1870-CC

Plateau 2: 1871-CC, 1873-CC With Arrows, 1872-S, 1871-S

Plateau 3: 1866, 1849-O, 1886, 1869

Plateau 4: 1842-O Small Date, 1866-S, 1851-O, 1860-S, 1872-CC

Your comments and thoughts on this revised rarity rating are invited.

AN 1858-O SHATTERED OBVERSE HALF DIME

by
Al Blythe

The recent acquisition of an 1858-O half dime from a mail order dealer provided some surprises when I received it. After looking it over through a 10x loupe to determine whether it was correctly represented as to grade, I was greeted with a significant die break network on the obverse. This sent me to higher magnification sources to help me to describe in writing what I saw. These comments follow, but first I must say that I believe this particular half dime is not one of the varieties described in Valentine by any of the contributor's to that volume.

A major die break, as shown in the photograph of this coin, runs from the rim at 12 o'clock through Liberty's forehead and face through the center of her neck and between the breasts. At this point, it becomes a minor crack and ends on the right leg midway to the thigh.

Another break originates at 12 o'clock and goes between Star 7 and Liberty's head to the left shoulder then out into the field. It then comes back through the left arm between the shoulder and elbow and ends in the folds of the gown. There is a minor crack from Star 7 to the rim. Also, at 1 o'clock, there is a minor crack from the rim through a denticle and to the top two points of Star 8 through the cap to the point of Star 8 closest to the cap.



1858-O Half Dime with Die Crack Through Forehead

The reverse of this coin has a barely noticeable die crack between the second S in STATES and the O in OF. A large round O mintmark is centered above the bow and measures 1.2mm, tilting slightly left.

The pictures of the 1858-O half dime were taken by Bill Fivaz.



Mintmark on 1858-O Half Dime

LET'S TRADE

I need Seated Quarters, any date. Common dates should be XF-AU, scarce and rare dates VF-AU. I have available for trade:

HALF DIMES

1871-S VF-35 Choice
1872-S Below XF-40 Choice

DIMES

1840 Drapery F-15 Choice
1841 AU-55 Razor Sharp
1850-O F-15 Choice
1852 XF-45 Choice
1857-O VF-30

DIMES

1884 AU-50 Prooflike
1890-S XF-40

HALVES

1870-S AU-50 Razor Sharp
1871-CC VG-10/F-12

DOLLARS

1866 F-12/15

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LARRY BRIGGS RARE COINS

QUARTERS

1842-0	Small date, G/VG, A-2 Rev . . .	\$330
1842-0	Small Date, VG, A-2 Rev . . .	400
1842-0	Small Date, VG/F, A-1 Rev . . .	575
1842-0	Small Date, F, A-1 Rev	800
1845	5 over 5, Choice AU	165
1847-0	AU - Perfect Reverse	350
1849-0	AG, marks	175
1849-0	AG/G	275
1849-0	Full good	375
1849-0	VG/F	625
1849-0	VF	1350
1852-0	G/VG	135
1852-0	Fine	335
1852-0	F/VF	475
1853	3 over 2, No Arr. VF	400
1853	3 over 4, Arr. & Rays, VF	225
1854-0	Huge O, VG	225
1854-0	Huge O, VF	400
1855-S	Choice XF	350
1855-0	VF cleaned	150
1856-S	S over s, choice XF+ with retooled obverse shield	700
1857-S	Choice XF+	500
1860-S	VF	450
1862-S	XF+ toned	350
1863	XF, mark on head	95
1864-S	AG+ nice	125
1864-S	Choice Fine	325
1865-S	VF, mark on rim	245
1866	Fine, cleaned long ago	275
1866	XF	600
1866-S	VG/F, full LIBERTY	265
1866-S	Choice Fine	325
1867	Full good	100
1867	Fine	200

QUARTERS

1867-S	Fine, cleaned	\$155
1867-S	Fine, nice	190
1868	Fine	175
1868-S	XF cleaned	200
1869	VF	400
1869-S	XF	400
1870-CC	AG/G nice	1300
1870-CC	VG	1850
1870-CC	Fine, papers	2500
1871-S	Choice Fine	400
1871-CC	VF, extremely rare	1850
1872	XF	165
1872-S	VG/AG	145
1872-S	Choice Fine	450
1872-CC	Choice Fine, very rare	550
1873	No Arr, Open 3, XF	165
1873	No Arr, Closed 3, XF	275
1873-CC	Arrows, Choice VF/XF	2250
1875-CC	Type 1, choice Fine	125
1875-CC	Type 2, XF/AU	500
1886	XF	400

HALVES

1840	Choice AU/UNC, nice	\$150
1846-0	6 over 5, VG	350
1850	VG, mark by 5th star	100
1855	5 over 4, XF	400
1855-S	G/VG	340

DOLLAR

1850	AU prooflike	\$1275
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TRADE DOLLAR

1875-S	S over CC, XF	\$475
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THE OVERWORKED DIES OF THE NEW ORLEANS MINT 1853 - 1854

by
Harry E. Smith

Mintage figures at the New Orleans mint are relatively small when compared to those at the Philadelphia mint for the same years. Yet there is increasing evidence that the New Orleans mint used an unusually small number of dies to meet its production figures. This is evidenced by the many subtle and sometimes spectacular die breaks and recuttings seen on New Orleans coins for the years 1853 and 1854. By demonstration I will discuss the New Orleans coins I have seen or own whose dies were pushed to the limit of usefulness.



HALF DIMES - About half of the 1853-O half dimes I've seen have a common weakness in the die to the right of the 3 in the date. Die cracks extend from either the outside upper or lower curves of the 3 into the rim. One piece that I own, besides having the die crack, has a "V" shaped cud from the base of the rock into the top of the 3. There is also a die crack running from the top of the 8 through the upper bar of the 5, on into the upper ball of the 3 and then extending down the right side of the 3. This damage to the obverse die probably occurred from clashed dies, as the reverse of my coin shows heavy clash marks, including the top of the date with no evidence of a piece of the die missing by the 3. I have not seen an 1853-O half dime with the above described cud that did not also have a clash marked reverse.

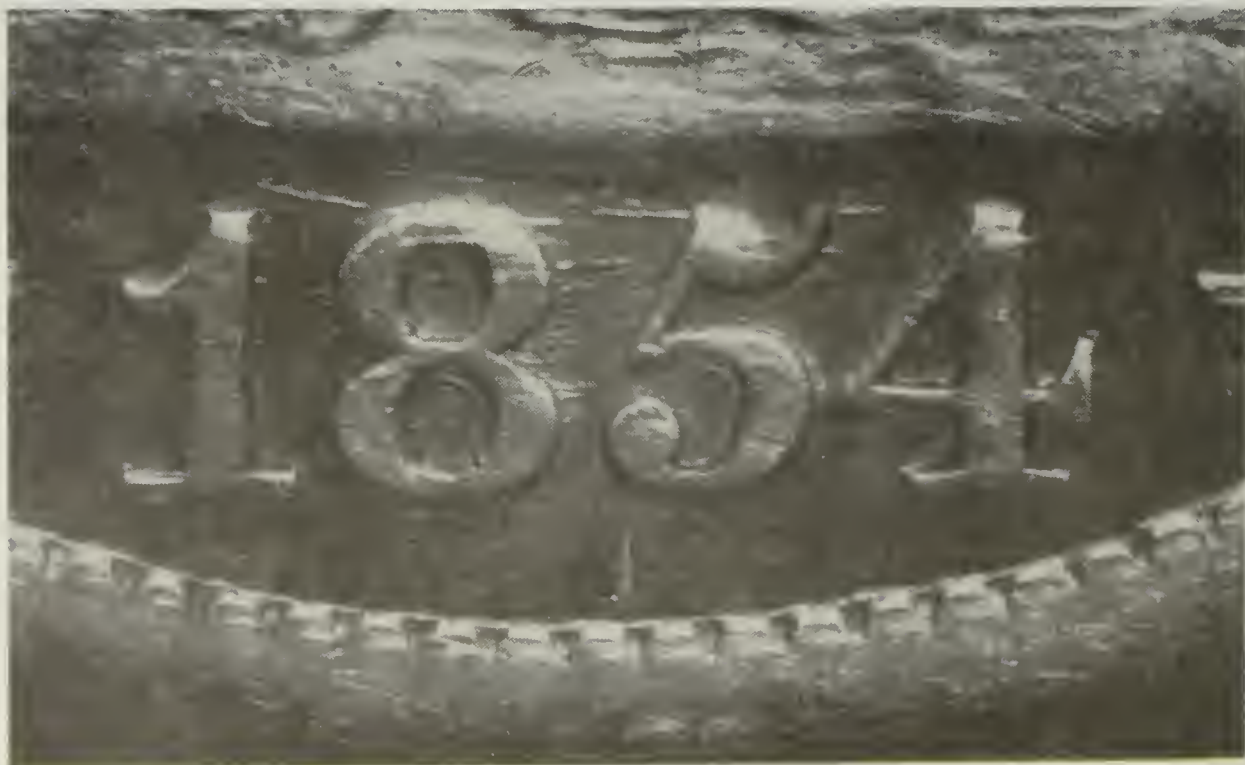
DIMES - I have not personally seen any New Orleans dimes of this era that were struck from overworked dies. However, Al Blythe reported an 1854-O dime with heavy obverse die cracks running from stars 7 through 13 and then on through the date in Issue #29 of the journal. Mr. Blythe's coin also has many reverse rim cuds and is proof that the dime dies were used to the limit of their endurance.

QUARTERS - There are many examples of 1853-O quarters that I have seen that were struck from recut dies. One 1853-O quarter that I own has a fully recut date, arrows and stars, with the stars looking as if a small star was laid over a much larger one. The reverse of this coin shows such heavy recutting of some letters and rays that the field areas near the recuttings are almost even with the uppermost surfaces of the letters and rays. Another 1853-O quarter, this one with heavy recuttings and circular obverse die polishing marks, is described and pictured in Issue #25 of the journal.

The most easily recognized recut New Orleans coin of this era is the 1854-O Huge O quarter. This variety typically comes with the stars and devices on the obverse recut. The mintmark is crudely recut on the reverse giving it a wide and thick appearance. The tops of the R and D in QUAR. DOL. are polished away as some kind of excessive polishing was used to repair damage in the remaking of the mintmark.

HALF DOLLARS - I have seen several 1853-O halves with recuttings in various areas of the date, stars, letters and devices. Some pieces I've seen even have the rays recut, most usually those under and around the eagle's right wing. The most spectacular recutting of this date I have seen was reported by Jim Snell and pictured in Issue #9 of the journal.

An 1854-O half that I purchased recently has the obverse almost totally recut, including the date, and is very similar to Mr. Snell's coin. However, my coin has many horizontal die scratches in the field between the numerals of the date, even inside the upper loop of the 8. These lines may



be crude polishing marks to repair some type of die damage. The denticles on the obverse appear to have another set of denticles under them that are shifted into the gaps between each denticle. The reverse die used to strike this coin appears to have been in better shape than its obverse counterpart. There are some minor recuttings of the eagle's wings, a very small die crack from the top of the L to the F in HALF and another die crack extending from the tip of the middle arrowhead out into the field.

Another example of an 1854-O half dollar demonstrates the severe problems that the mint was having in the preparation of dies during this era. For this variety all four digits in the date are recut and many die scratches can be seen running through the area of the date. More dramatic however, is the damage to the dies that occurs between the flag and the lower loop of the 5 and in the area within the triangle of the number 4. This variety has all thirteen stars on the obverse doubled and several die scratches that run under Liberty's chin. The reverse of this coin shows no recutting at all and is more typical of the dies seen a few years later in the series.



As you can see there are many examples of overworked New Orleans dies in just these two years. Collecting these examples is basically inexpensive with an abundant supply of specimens available to the interested collector. This type of activity can provide many hours of enjoyment in trying to put together a progressive set of die deterioration coins. Any comments or news of other major die deteriorations are welcome.

The pictures of the three New Orleans coins in this article were taken by Don Slouffman at Paramount Rare Coin Company in Englewood, Ohio.

QUARTERS

1841	FINE-12, nice full Fine	\$68
1841-0	VG-10, dark toning	19
1843-0	FINE-12, slightly rough	27
1843-0	VF-25, sharp but cleaned	65
1844-0	VG-10, even gray toning	13
1844-0	VG-10, nearly Fine	15
1844-D	FINE-12, a decent fine	18
1847	FINE-15, dark gray toning	17
1847-0	GOOD-4, a few obverse spots . . .	18
1847-0	VG-10, nearly fine, cleaned	25
1848	VG-8, no problems	33
1848	FINE-12, old cleaning	50
1849	GOOD-4, two minor obv. spots . .	13
1849-0	VG-8, cleaned	395
1849-0	VG-8, cleaned long ago	460
1850-0	VF-25, dark toning	29
1855-S	VG-8, cleaned & rough	28
1859-0	VF-30, super nice coin	62
1860-S	VG-8, left rev. rim weak	95
1866-S	VF-25, two obverse nicks	350
1867-S	FINE-12, obverse rim nick	155
1867-S	FINE-12, two obverse spots . . .	165
1870	VG-10, natural toning	65
1870-CC	VG-8, uneven dark toning, reverse scratch outlining eagle's left wing & neck. . . .	1750
1873	NA, Open 3 VG-8	38
1873	NA, Closed 3, GOOD-4	65
1875-CC	FINE-12, a few minor marks . . .	95
1877-CC	VF-20, nicely toned	20

HALVES

1840	Sm. Letters, VF-20, gray toning	\$45
1841-0	EF-40, cleaned	60
1842	Small Date GOOD-6	29
1845	GOOD-6, one tiny obv. nick	21
1846-0	GOOD-6, gray toning	17
1849	EF-45, cleaned	65
1856	EF-45, old cleaning	58
1858	VF-20, E slightly weak	30
1858-D	EF-40, very dark	45
1858-S	FINE-15, minor rev. scratch . . .	33
1859-0	EF-45, nice gold toning	67
1859-S	GOOD-6, no problems	17
1861	EF-40, very dark rust toning . . .	49
1861-0	EF-40, cleaned	45
1861-S	VG-8, no problems	20
1863-S	VF-20, E is weak	32
1864	EF-40, old cleaning but nice . . .	98
1864-S	EF-40, nice sharp coin	63
1865-S	EF-40, nice sharp coin	55
1866	VG-8, nice	20
1867-S	EF-40, nice sharp coin	55
1868-S	EF-40, old cleaning	58
1869	EF-45, steel gray color	65
1875	VF-20, natural toning	29
1876	VG-10, many small nicks	18
1876	EF-45, steel gray	58
1877-CC	EF-45, sharp & attractive	58
1877-S	VG-10, nearly fine	23
1877-S	EF-45, sharp but cleaned	54

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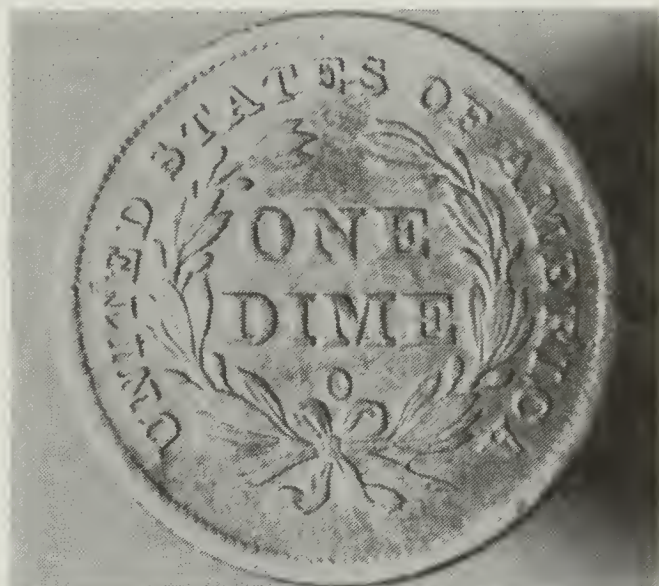
IS THE 1839-O SHATTERED REVERSE DIME AN R-7 RARITY?

by
Al Blythe

Several years ago, a personal challenge was created for me as a result of a review of my copy of the Ahwash Encyclopedia on Seated Dimes. In particular, I became intrigued by the plate coin displaying the A-6 shattered reverse on the 1839-O dime. For me it opened new vistas and created an insatiable curiosity, and a persistent search which has not always been fruitful but which has been rewarding. The reward has been in terms of knowledge gained as a result of the process.



First Die State
Few Breaks Visible



Second Die State
Cracks Clearly Defined



Third Die State
Heavy Cracks Visible



Fourth Die State
Die Breaking Up

There have been previous articles written on the A-6 1839-O dime. At the time the Encyclopedia was published, the A-6 was described as Unique in UNC, if one existed. Additionally, Kam assigned a low R-7 for circulated coins of this variety and only two had been seen at that time.

The purpose of this article is twofold: (1) To indicate that I have personal knowledge of at least eight specimens owned by LSCC members and (2) to demonstrate through the visual medium the progression of a die breaking up.

The four specimens that I own grade from F to XF, and range from the early beginning of the die break (1) through a late die state (4). This deterioration is illustrated in the accompanying photographs. Each has a die crack network of varying intensity that fits the description in the Ahwash book, i.e., a crack from I in UNITED to the wreath and up to the S in STATES, to denticle and going on upward to T in STATES around to M in AMERICA up to the denticle - from the denticle through C in AMERICA to wreath, to bottom of ribbon through to the left side of the wreath.

Additional specimens that I have seen and that are owned by other LSCC members bracket either end of the progression herein described. One coin which graded Fine showed the barely discernible beginnings of the die breaks, while the other which appeared to grade AU had the massive shattering at the 2 o'clock position.

There is probably no way of knowing how many other circulated specimens of the 1839-O A-6 dime may have survived the 145 years since it was minted. I do know that the early efforts of Ahwash and McCloskey, and the plate coin in the Encyclopedia provided me with a fascination about this variety which appears to be unending.

The rarity rating of "Unique" perhaps still stands as it applies to an UNC of this variety. Maybe one exists in a collection somewhere! Time as well as investigation by people with interests like mine may prove that the low R-7 rating assigned this coin in circulated condition is too high. Additional time and searching will tell. At this time, I would suggest that the A-6 1839-O dime is scarce in any grade and rare above XF. Comments are welcome.

The pictures of the 1839-O dimes were taken by Bill Fivaz.

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HALF DOLLARS

1853	XF-40, original	\$ 185
1879	VG-10, rare	265

GOBRECHT DOLLARS

1836	F-12, baggie	\$1375
1836	XF45/45	3750

SEATED DOLLARS

1840	AU-50 baggie	\$ 400
1840	F-12	175
1844	F-15	210
1844	XF40/45, nice	525
1845	VG-8	185
1845	F12/15	235
1845	XF40/40	475
1848	VF35/XF40, rim spot	365
1849	VF30/35	325
1850	XF40/40 ANACS	1200
1850-0	AG-3	110
1850-0	F15/VF20 toned	420
1850-0	XF40/45 gold toning	975
1851		CALL FOR PRICE
1853	XF40/40	385
1854	VF35/XF40, very rare	1475
1855	F15/VF20	795
1855	XF40/45 original	1350
1858	AU50/50 ANACS	CALL FOR PRICE
1858	MS60/60	CALL FOR PRICE

SEATED DOLLARS

1860	VF35/XF40 rare	\$ 575
1860-0	XF40/45 nice	295
1860-0	AU50/50	395
1861	VF25/25	525
1861	AU50/50 blue toning	650
1862	G-6	300
1863	VF20/30	310
1863	XF40/45	410
1863	AU55/55	900
1864	F12/12	210
1864	AU50/50 Prooflike	550
1865	VF20/20	180
1866	XF40/AU50	335
1869	AG-3	45
1870-CC	VF-20, one mark	230
1871	G-4 rim marks	45
1871-CC	VG8/F12	1300
1871-CC	F15/VF25	2300
1872-S	F15/VF25	475
1872-CC	F15/VF20	1075
1872-CC	VF30/30 ANACS, light initials	1375
1873	F12/VF20	155
1873	F15/VF25	200
1873-CC	VF30/XF45	4375

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1875-S	VF35/35 counterstamped	
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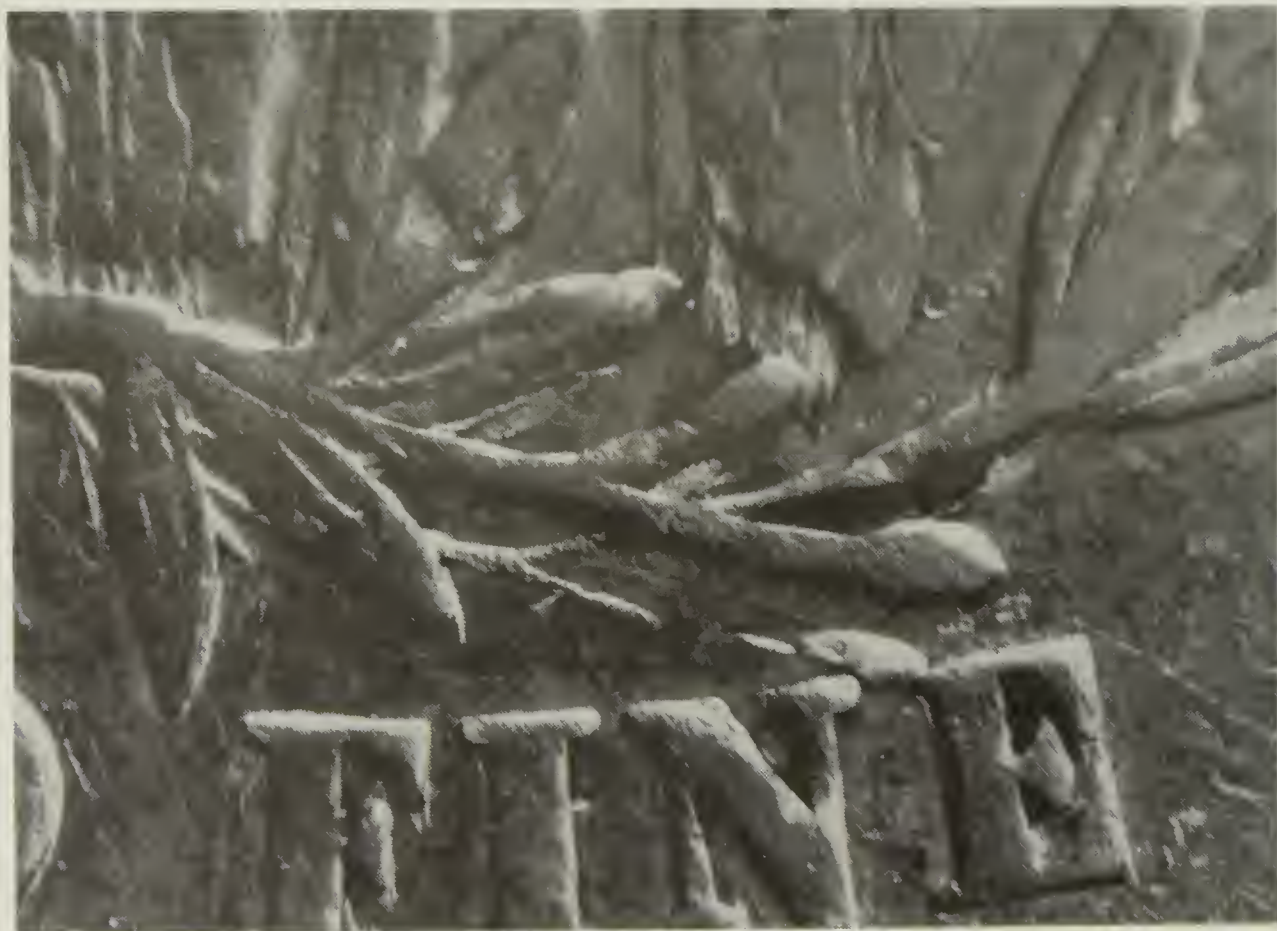
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A DOUBLED DIE 1876-CC TRADE DOLLAR

by
John W. McCloskey

Shown below are pictures of an 1876-CC Trade Dollar with a doubled die reverse. This coin grades a nice VF-30 and was brought to the recent ANA Convention in Detroit by dealer Jack Beymer. The piece shows strong doubling through many areas of the design but the error is particularly evident along the lower edge of the right wing and through the olive branch just below the wing. The earlier image of the right wing extends into an upper leaf and bud and is so strong that it appears to be part of the design. The image of an earlier branch can be seen running through two lower leaves and out into the field over the letters IN with the remains of a bud filling the gap between the upper serifs of the N and E. The strength of the previous design leaves little doubt that this is indeed an error reverse.

Another interesting feature of this coin is the area through the letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM on the scroll. The remains of earlier letters can be seen throughout the motto with the upper serifs of the previous letters running right through the center of the motto. Remains of the earlier design can also be seen below the eagle's mouth and through the letters R and N in the word GRAINS.



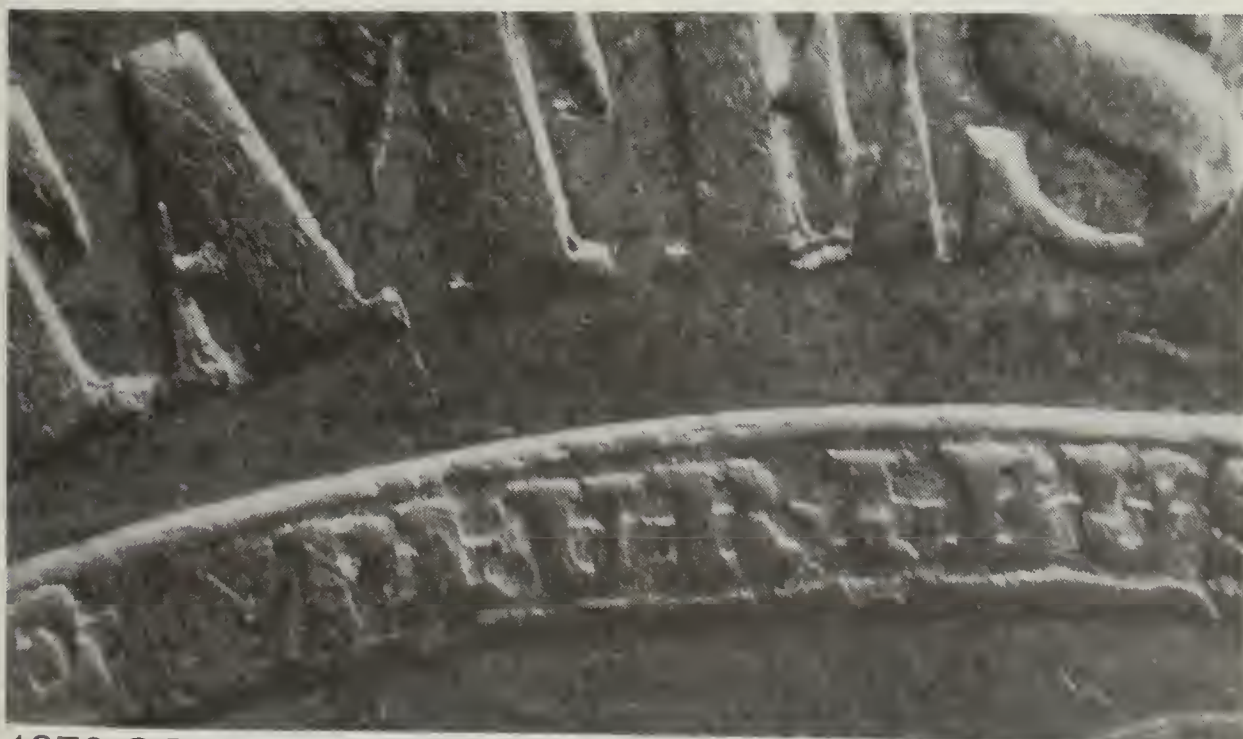
1876-CC Trade Dollar with Doubled Die Reverse.



The two C's in the mintmark on this variety measure 1.2mm tall and 0.8mm wide. The left C is centered under the lower serif of the S in GRAINS and over the space between E and D. The right C is centered under the comma and over the upright of the D. The reverse is the type I variety with the berry contained within the right claw.

Has anyone seen another example of this interesting doubled die variety? The strength of the earlier images would make this variety easy to recognize even for a well worn specimen.

The pictures of the 1876-CC doubled die Trade Dollar were taken by Marilyn Tiernan at Coin World.



1876-CC Trade Dollar showing Doubling through E PLURIBUS UNUM.

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HALF DIMES

1838-0	G-4 original	\$ 59
1868-S	G + /VG, original	7
1869	VF-35	40

DIMES

1838-0	F-15	\$63
1844	VF-30 very sharp	140
1846	VG-10 "LIBER" shows	86
1847	G-5, Var. 1, high date	6
1847	VF-30, Var. 1, high date	67
1856-0	G-4, 56 over 56	7
1861-S	XF/AU, satiny surfaces	150
1873	F/VG No Arr. Open 3	14
1873-CC	AG+	290

QUARTERS

1840	VF-30 +	\$120
1840-0	F-12, No Drapery	19
1841	VG-8, original	81
1841	VF-25, nice original	120
1841-0	F-15	40
1846	VF-30 +	29
1848	XF-45 8 over 8	160
1850-0	F-12	40
1852-0	F-12, ANACS graded	325
1856-0	VF-30 sharp	32

QUARTERS

1858-0	VF-20 +	\$ 42
1858-S	F-15	100
1860-S	VG-8	125
1865	F-15	70
1865-S	F-12 original	110
1867-S	VF-20	230
1868	VF-30	205
1870	VF-30	120
1871	XF-40, possibly ex-proof	99
1871-CC	G/Fair, weak mintmark	115
1873	VF-30 No Arrows, Open 3	80
1873	XF-40 No Arrows, Closed 3	250
1875-S	F-12, weak strike	26
1888-S	VG/G.	7
1888-S	F-15	15

HALVES

1857-S	VF-30, Medium S	\$125
1858	G-6 Reverse of 1859	17
1858	VG-F Reverse of 1859	24
1860-S	XF-40	80

DOLLARS

1870	G+ /VG original	\$ 65
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THOSE RARE 1859 MINT-STATE HALF DOLLARS

by
Weimar W. White

Collectors during the mid-19th century paid little attention to collecting mintmarked coins. The survival of mint-state business issues during this period was, for the most part, a matter of chance. Many of the specimens extant today were probably initially placed in children's banks, desk, bureau, and cabinet drawers, and other sundry locations. The coins that managed to survive in mint state did so largely by accident.

The collecting habits of collectors did not change until the first quarter of the 20th century when they began to popularize the collecting of branch mint issues. The earlier numismatists were generally content to pay a small premium for proof coinage because, to them, these specially manufactured coins represented a finer quality die-impression than would normally be possible with a business strike. This philosophy prevailed among the collectors of the 19th century and is responsible for many of the rarities seen today.

The author has chosen to examine 1859 half dollars to illustrate these points. In 1859, there were 748,000 Philadelphia Liberty Seated half dollars minted, 800 of which were proof. The New Orleans and San Francisco mints during this year produced 2,834,000 and 566,000 half dollars respectively, but very few now exist in uncirculated condition. The following figures represent the author's opinion on the numbers of proof and MS specimens extant.

	Proof	MS-65	MS-65/63
1859	60-150	5-15	30-60
1859-O	-	5-15	35-75
1859-S	-	7-20	30-60



The prices listed in *The Official Red Book of United States Coins* (1984) are shown for these dates.

	Proof-60	MS-60
1859	\$950	\$525
1859-O	-	\$525
1859-S	-	\$900

It is interesting to note that the price of an 1859 Proof-60 coin shown above is almost twice the value of an MS-60 issue, and yet the ratio of proofs to mint-state business strikes known is approximately 2:1.

Nevertheless, the true rarity of a gem 1859 business issue was recognized by an individual who recently purchased one for \$12,000. The beautiful 1859 MS-65 half dollar pictured in this article is not the \$12,000 coin mentioned, but it does represent one of the finest known.

I must admit that I was inspired to write this article after observing the magnificent 1859-O half dollar shown on page 270 of *The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume Number One*.

Pictures of the 1859 MS-65 half dollar were taken by Jim Delabarto.

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HALF DIMES

1837	No Stars, Good, slightly bent	\$10
1853	With Arrows, XF	35
1856	XF	35
1857	XF-40/40, cleaned, ANACS	30
1863-S	F/VF, struck from very worn obverse die	30
1869-S	VF	30
1871	XF dark	25

DIMES

1838-O	No Stars, Good, light damage on obverse	\$15
1876	VF	9
1885	XF-40/40 ANACS	40
1888-S	VF	9

QUARTERS

1876-S	VF	\$15
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DIMES

1838-O	No Stars G +	\$ 33.00
1838-O	No Stars VG	39.00
1838	G/AG	4.00
1838	VG	7.00
1838	Dark w/scratch XF	10.00
1838	Large Stars VG	8.00
1838	Scarce Small Stars G	17.00
1839-O	G	7.00
1840-O	Small O G	6.00
1841-O	G	7.00
1841-O	G	5.00
1841-O	F	10.00
1841-O	VF	17.00
1841-O	Dark VF	15.00
1842	VG +	5.00
1842-O	F	11.00
1842-O	VF	29.00
1842-O	VF Sm O R6 V4	99.00
1842-O	G Large O	6.00
1843	VG +	8.00
1844	VF Polished	145.00
1845	G +	5.00
1845	VG	6.00
1845-O	F	37.50
1845	XF Double Date rare	350.00
1846	F Obverse scratch	105.00
1847	F V2	45.00
1847	F V1 obverse damage	17.00
1848	AG	4.00
1848	G	7.00
1849	F	10.00
1849-O	G	10.00
1849-O	VG/F Large O	20.00
1849-O	F Small O scarce	10.00
1850-O	G	6.00
1851	F	8.00
1851-O	AG	4.00
1851-O	VG +	9.00
1852-O	VG	14.00
1853	G	4.00
1853	F	6.00
1853	VF	15.00
1854-O	G/AG	6.00
1855	F	4.00
1856-O	VG	6.00

DIMES

1856-O	F	\$ 20.00
1856-O	G Large Date	9.00
1856	F Small Date	7.00
1856	F Small Date	2.00
1857	F	7.00
1857-O	VF Medium O	9.25
1858	G	4.00
1858-O	F Scarce	6.00
1859	G	5.00
1859-O	F	12.00
1859-S	VG	195.00
1861	F Type 1 scarce	15.00
1861	VF Type 2	18.50
1862	VG +	5.00
1862-S	G	12.00
1868	G	7.00
1869-S	AG	6.00
1870-S	AG R5	79.00
1873	VF Open 3	45.00
1873-S	VF	42.00
1874	G	6.00
1874-S	G Scarce coin	17.50
1875-CC	AG	5.00
1876	AG	2.00
1876-CC	G Obverse scratch	2.00
1877-CC	VF	9.00
1880	AU Reverse Scratch rare	275.00
1882	F	5.00
1883	F Damaged	2.00
1884	AG	2.00
1885	F	6.50
1886	F/G	4.00
1887	F	6.50
1887	VF	9.00
1888	VG +	5.00
1889	VG	4.00
1889	VF	8.00
1889-S	G	6.00
1891	VF	10.00
1891	F	5.00
1891-O	VG	5.00
1891-O	F	5.00
1891-O/O	AG	11.00
1891-S	VG	5.50

KROON WINS AHWASH AWARD FOR 1984

John T. Kroon won the Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for 1984 for his contribution "Availability of Liberty Seated Dollars by Grade" that appeared in Issue #29 of the Journal. The Ahwash award is given annually for the best article to appear in the Journal as voted by the club members. This year's award covered the material in Issues #28 to #30 and the award winner was determined as a result of a vote by club members during July 1984. A total of 76 ballots were received from club members who were asked to vote for no more than two articles which they liked best during the past year. It was decided to allow individuals to vote for two articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among a number of articles. There were 134 votes cast from the 76 ballots. A complete listing of the results is given below.

RANK	ARTICLE and AUTHOR	VOTES
1.	Availability of Liberty Seated Dollars by Grade..... by John Kroon	19
2.	Kamal M. Ahwash - An Introspective..... by Thomas E. Baroody	17
3.	Some thoughts on Liberty Seated Halves Part I..... by Donald J. Vettel	16
4.	Finding the Elusive "O" Mint Quarters (1840-1891)..... by Brian Keefe	13
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With twenty different articles receiving support for the best article award, it is evident that there are diverse interests and preferences within the club. However, even one vote for an article indicates that it was important to at least one reader and therefore a worthy contribution to the available information on Liberty Seated coinage. The officers wish to thank all those members who took time to contribute articles during the past year and we hope that we will continue to receive interesting and exciting materials in the years ahead.

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DIMES

1860-O	VG8/Good (Full rim)	\$245
1865	Fine	375
1871-CC	F/VG	595
1873-CC	VG slight bend, BERTY visible	525

QUARTERS

1849-O	VG-10 IBERTY strong, L weak, old cleaning	\$525
--------	--	-------

QUARTERS

1866-S	VG10/8 full LIBERTY	\$240
1872-S	Strong F15, rev. rim cut	275
1880	XF-AU, proof	250
1889	XF 40 + cleaned, not too badly	235
1891-O	Good 8/4, reverse rim 75% defined	85

DOLLARS

1846-O	VF	\$195
--------	--------------	-------

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HALF DIMES

1. 1837 Sm. Date F
2. 1838 VG-F
3. 1838 EF
4. 1838-O G-VG
5. 1839 F
6. 1839 EF +
7. 1839-O F
8. 1839-O EF
9. 1840 ND F
10. 1841-O VG
11. 1842 EF
12. 1843 V-4 F
13. 1843 F
14. 1844/184 F
15. 1844/184 VG-F
16. 1847 F
17. 1848-O G-VG Lg. O
18. 1848-O VF Sm. o
19. 1849/8 AF
20. 1849/6 AF
21. 1849-O VG
22. 1851-O G-VG
23. 1852-O G
24. 1853 NA VG
25. 1853-O EF

HALF DIMES

26. 1854-O F
27. 1856 VF +
28. 1857 VF
29. 1858-O VG
30. 1858-O VF
31. 1859 VF-XF
32. 1859-O VF-XF
33. 1864-S AG
34. 1865-S G
35. 1867-S G
36. 1872-S Above EF
37. Lot of 5, G-VG
1839,49,53,58,69-S

DIMES

38. 1841 VG
39. 1841-O VG
40. 1855 G

QUARTERS

41. 1839 F
42. 1840 WD F
43. 1841-O AF
44. 1842-O LD G-VG
45. 1844-O F-VF
46. 1847 VF

QUARTERS

47. 1847-O F-VF
48. 1849 F
49. 1849 F-VF
50. 1850-O VG
51. 1853-O A&R G-VG
52. 1854-O F
53. 1855-O F
54. 1856-O VG-F
55. 1858-O EF-AU
56. 1858-S VG-F
57. 1861 VG-F
58. 1870 VG-F
59. 1874-S VG
60. 1875-S
61. 1875-CC VF-EF + +
62. 1876-S VF +
63. 1877-S F
64. 1878 F/VG
65. 1888-S VF-EF
66. 1891-S F +

HALVES

67. 1840-O F
68. 1841-O G
69. 1846-O TD G

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UPDATE ON THE 1841-O DOUBLED DIE QUARTER

by
Kenneth R. Hill

In March of the 1980 I reported an 1841-O quarter in Issue #17 of the journal which was struck from an obverse die which was doubled. Since then I have corresponded with four club members, checked dealer's stocks and written to dealers selling high grade examples of the 1841-O quarter. In September of 1983 I finally located and purchased an EF-45 example of this variety from a dealer who had obtained a hoard of twelve 1841-O quarters from an old time dealer. The coin that I purchased is pictured in this article and shows additional doubling over what I reported earlier on the left side of the pole.



The 1841-O Doubled Die Quarters known to me are as follows:

Two in EF-AU. Both seen in a local dealer's stock. They were graded as uncirculated and were in a group of five 1841-O quarters purchased from another dealer who had fifteen of this date. All of these coins came from the pieces unearthed in New Orleans several years ago. The dealer was not aware that two of his coins were of the doubled die variety.

One EF-45, the piece pictured in this article.

One VF-30/35. A coin reported to me in March of 1982 by a North Carolina club member. He purchased this piece from an ad in the journal and no mention was made of the doubled die.

One VF pictured in my article in Issue #17 of the journal. I purchased this piece in November of 1979.

One F/VF that I purchased in December of 1974.

One Fine reported by a California club member in September 1983.

One VG + that I purchased from a California dealer in August 1981.

One VG with slight scratches, sent to me for examination by a club member from Missouri in May 1980.

One Good, reported by the same California club member who owns the Fine.

I feel that this variety is scarce in all grades. I had previously believed it to be very rare in high grades but the New Orleans find will probably change this.

AT THE ANA, DETROIT 1984

The KAMAL M. AHWASH LITERARY AWARD plaque was awarded for the first time at the Annual Meeting of LSCC at the Detroit convention. The plaque was won by John T. Kroon for his contribution to the journal during the past year. The design on the silver plate is shown on the opposite page. Kam's logo representing "Knowledge Thru Research" expresses the aim of the club and is an appropriate goal for the award. The silver plate is mounted on a wooden base in the shape of a shield.

Discussion at the club meeting centered around club publications. It was felt that the increasing number of contributions to the journal would allow us to expand the format of the publication during the next year. It was therefore decided to expand the number of pages in each issue from 32 to 40. Club dues were then increased to provide the funds necessary for increased printing and postage costs.

Club members felt that the Collective Volume covering the first 18 issues of the journal was an unqualified success. They also felt this volume was very helpful in letting the numismatic public know about the club and its work in studying the Liberty Seated coinage of the 19th century. It was decided that the club would make plans to prepare a second Collective Volume covering the material in Issues #19 to #33 of the journal. The second Collective Volume would represent a five year summary of the information in the journal and would contain roughly the same number of pages as the first Collective Volume. Preparation of the plates for the new Collective Volume would begin immediately following the publication of Issue #33 in July 1985.

On the floor of the convention there were very few Liberty Seated coins available for observation by the Seated specialist. I do remember seeing circulated examples of the 1871-CC, 1872-CC and 1873-CC dollars in the case of one dealer and two nice circulated examples of the 1855-S half dollar at another table. But overall the selection of Liberty Seated coins was limited this year at the ANA.

The Editor

The
KAMAL M. AHWASH

**LITERARY
AWARD
for
1984**



PRESENTED TO
JOHN T. KROON
for his contribution

**Availability of
Liberty Seated Dollars by Grade**

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

LIBERTY SEATED DOLLARS

1840	Toned XF	\$350
1840	XF	325
1842	XF	240
1845	Lightly Toned XF	350
1846	XF	240
1847	Dark Tone XF	200
1849	XF Sharp!	300
1859	Better date. Cleaned XF Planchet defect at head	250.
1859-S	Better date. Dark toned XF Very pretty coin!	500
1860-O	Not a better date. VF weak rev.	130
1865	Shiney XF Cheap at	300
1866	VF obv./XF rev.	275
1868	Polished AU	350
1872	Original Dull Toning XF	210
1873	Great "Eye Appeal". Beautifully toned VF. Slightly better date	200

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I would like to make a correction to my original article on the 1841-O Doubled Die quarter that appeared in Issue #17 of the Journal. When listing the Seated coins struck from doubled dies in John A. Wexler's "The Encyclopedia of Doubled Dies - Volume I", I said that he had listed eleven Seated coins, but I only mentioned ten. The one I omitted was a twenty cent piece.

Kenneth R. Hill
LSCC #225

I enjoyed Terry Searcy's article "The Least Available Seated Dimes" that appeared in Issue #30 of the Journal. The amount of work required to produce this article deserves recognition. Terry also brought out two important points. (1) Availability is difficult to assess due to many marketing methods. Thus do not depend on only one source of information to determine rarity. (2) High prices bring out more examples of many dates. Therefore, that high priced coin may not be rare after all. These are important lessons for any date or variety collector.

Scott G. Grieb
LSCC #740

I would like to respond to Larry Briggs' article entitled "Dispute on the 1888-S Quarter" in which he comments that this issue is "not rare or even remotely scarce". Larry completely missed the point of my article on the scarcity/rarity study of the 1888-S quarter which appeared in Issue #27. First, the primary intent was to show the *condition* scarcity/rarity of this issue as compared to the 1878-S, 1884, 1888 and 1889 quarters in proof and/or mint state and to point out that I believe it is undervalued in Red Book. Even though Larry claims to have located 53 of the 1888-S quarters in six months, this does not refute the condition rarity estimates given for the 1888-S in my article. Should Larry decide to investigate the availability of the other quarters mentioned, I think he would be surprised to find out that the 1884, 1888 and 1889 dates are readily available, particularly in proof. It is because I take numismatic scholarship seriously that I decided to write the article on the availability of these quarters in their various states of preservation. I disagree with Larry that "raindrops are like opinions" as this inference applies to researched estimates given for coins.

Weimar White
LSCC #660

Reviewing back issues of the Journal I discovered your article on the 1839-O half dime with shattered reverse in Issue 23. I now own a piece which would be an immediate predecessor of yours as a die state. My piece has the complete H - shaped configuration of breaks through the center as well as the break in the E of AMERICA. My coin lacks only the breaks from the D in DIME out through the I to the rim and the break through the second A in AMERICA to the rim.

I enjoyed David Cohen's excellent article on the 1859-S dollar in the last issue of the Journal. Lot #1805 in the Steve Ivy Ralston Sale of May 1983, which I purchased, was an 1859-S dollar with the identical recutting on the 1 and 8. My piece, grades XF and shares all the other die characteristics described except that it lacks the meandering reverse die cracks.

Harry Salyards
LSCC #505

I've read with much interest the running comments in the last few Journals on the relative scarcity of the 1888-S quarter. Being an avid quarter collector for the last 14 years, I would be more inclined to agree with Bill Cregan's observations. The key word here is "choice". In fact Bill was simply saying what I've observed for years, this date is virtually unobtainable in choice circulated condition. A well struck XF-45 or AU-50 specimen is currently undervalued. As a date the coin isn't rare and as Larry Briggs stated, you could accumulate literally dozens of them you wouldn't want in your collection. During the past 14 years I've only encountered three specimens that were suitable for my collection. Up to XF-40 the date is what I'll call common, at XF-45 it becomes scarce and in AU very scarce. If you're also looking for well struck non-porous specimens then you can expect to probably double your efforts and cost.

I personally feel that articles such as Bill Cregan's on his experience in locating various dates in specific grades and conditions are very beneficial to the club and would encourage other members to do the same. So much for another raindrop.

Roy Ash
LSCC #159

I ordered some coins from a bullion dealer recently among which was an 1871-S quarter in AG. Upon receiving the coins, I found the obverse of the 1871-S to be a full good with the reverse more of a fair with almost all of the lettering worn away. At first glance the mintmark seemed too large and it was not near the feather tip of the arrow, the mintmark position found on all San Francisco quarters from 1866 to 1874. Closer examination showed this "S" to in fact be a "C" with a small mark under it. Looking to the left of the feather tip I found the top of the other "C" and was thus the surprised owner of a rare 1871-CC quarter instead of a scarce 1871-S. Had I not studied the mintmark positioning of San Francisco quarters I too probably would never have known what I had.

Harry E. Smith
LSCC #566

HALF DIMES

1839	No Drapery AU . . .	\$105
1840-O	With Drapery VF . . .	105
1848	Medium Date VF . . .	19
1848	Large Date Ch.XF . .	130
1849	9 over 8 XF/AU . . .	150
1851-O	VF/XF	45
1864-S	AU	325

DIMES

1840-O	No Drapery VF . . .	\$ 37
1859-O	VF/F	20
1873	With Arrows Fine . .	16
1873-S	With Arrows VF . . .	54
1874-S	With Arrows Ch.XF .	170

TWENTY CENTS

1875	AU	\$410
1875-CC	VG	47
1875-CC	Fine	80
1875-CC	VF	130
1875-S	S/S ANACS 40/40 . .	140

QUARTERS

1850-O	VF	\$ 88
1851	Ch.VF	140
1860-O	MS-60 + ...	945
1869	AU ex-proof coin . .	525
1874-S	With Arrows Fine . .	36
1878-CC	Fine	49
1879	Ch.AU	335

HALVES

1843	Ch.AU	\$115
1855-O	With Arrows, AU . .	215
1857	VF	32
1858	XF	50
1859	Ch.AU	125
1861	Fine	22
1876-S	Toned Ch.AU	115
1878	Slight Toning Ch.AU	120
1887	Ch.AU + + Super Slider	825
1889	Ch.AU, Slight Toning	625

DOLLARS

1840	VF	\$ 295
1844	VF	345
1844	AU, Toning	875
1846-O	XF	550
1846-O	Ch.AU	1340
1847	AU	575
1848	AU-polished	750
1849	VF	345
1849	Nice AU	685
1850-O	Strong AU, some dark toning, Rare in grade	1750
1857	ANACS 50/50 Polished	725
1860-O	XF	255
1863	AU - Impaired Proof	975
1872-S	VF	575
1872-S	XF	760

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Magazine Sales.....	18.00
Donations.....	25.50
Interest Income.....	156.96

3880.21

Total Available.....	\$5430.64
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Disbursements:

Printing Expense.....	2164.00
Postage & Office Expenses.....	1340.82
ANA Membership Dues.....	18.00
Advertising Refund.....	20.00

Total Spent	3542.82
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Cash Balance - July 21, 1984	\$1887.82
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Your comments on any of the articles, ads or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

**John McCloskey**  
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